

Gravatt, Dan

From: Gravatt, Dan
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2014 12:02 PM
To: Tapia, Cecilia; Washburn, Ben; Hammerschmidt, Ron; Field, Jeff
Cc: Jefferson, Matthew
Subject: RE: Westlake Landfill question

Cecilia,

I'm sure John Schumacher could weigh in on this if we asked him, but this is a pretty straightforward question. I feel very confident in saying that Fred Weber's current blasting is not fracturing bedrock under West Lake, which is almost a mile away. Feeling the shockwave from their blasting does not indicate that the bedrock beneath your feet is fracturing. However, there's no doubt that the quarry in which the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill sits is surrounded by bedrock fractured by the blasting that created it, and these fractures could indeed affect the flow of groundwater in and around the landfill cell. This is something USGS will take into account in their hydrogeologic evaluation of the site.

As far as testing the water in the Fred Weber quarry (presumably for radionuclides, though the requestor isn't specific), recall that they recently denied USGS access to their monitoring wells to sample for radionuclides so I expect they will say the same about sampling the quarry water.

Sincerely,
Daniel R. Gravatt, PG
US EPA Region 7 SUPR/MOKS
11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, KS 66219
Phone (913) 551-7324

Principles and integrity are expensive, but they are among the very few things worth having.

From: Tapia, Cecilia
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2014 11:43 AM
To: Washburn, Ben; Hammerschmidt, Ron; Field, Jeff; Gravatt, Dan
Subject: RE: Westlake Landfill question

Jeff/Dan , is that something that USGS can answer ?

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 10:25 AM
To: Tapia, Cecilia; Hammerschmidt, Ron; Field, Jeff; Carey, Curtis
Subject: FW: Westlake Landfill question

Terrie Boguski forwarded on this question:

Terrie,

We attended the Westlake meeting tonight and I have a question about the testing. There is a very active Fred Weber quarry across highway 70 from the landfill. There is daily blasting that can be felt at our home almost a mile away. Is it possible that this blasting could fracture the bedrock under the landfill and cause a problem with the ground water or perched water under the landfill. Possibly allowing it to leak into unknown areas, or flow in undiscovered directions.

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This is probably unrelated to what you are responsible for, but has anyone tested the water at the bottom of the Quarry hole. This hole is deep enough to fit a city into, and I'm sure they are having to pump water out constantly. Thanks for your response.

Not sure to whom I should send the inquiry. We have no contact information for the submitter – so we would have to send the response to Terri to forward on if I am not contacted directly.

Benjamin M. Washburn
Public Affairs Specialist
EPA Region 7
(913) 551-7364

From: Terrie Boguski [<mailto:tboguski@skeo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 10:03 AM
To: Washburn, Ben
Cc: 'Kirby Webster'
Subject: FW: Westlake Landfill question

Hi Ben,

Please see the email string below this message. I received a question from a community member about the potential effect of blasting at a quarry on the other side of I-70 on ground water at the West Lake Landfill. As you can see, I told the person that we would send the question to you and ask for an answer. If you can put it on your list of questions to address at a future CAG meeting or perhaps in your newsletter, that would be great.

Thanks.
Terrie

I sent your question about the blasting at the quarry possibly affecting regional ground water flow to our hydrogeologist and the answer is that the potential for effects from the blasting will depend a lot on the specific conditions at the quarry and the surrounding region (see the email from Jill below). It is a good question and we are hoping that the EPA and USGS will be able to answer it as they work on understanding the subsurface conditions and ground water flow for the West Lake Landfill site. To help get a response, I will send your question to Ben Washburn and ask that he forward your question to the appropriate EPA personnel for an answer. I am not aware of any ground water testing from the active Fred Weber quarry across Highway 70 from the landfill.

I'm also sending your question to the CAG executive committee so that they can follow-up with EPA and help get a response. I'm removing your identity when I forward the question to EPA and the CAG in case you want your privacy protected, but please don't hesitate to contact Ben Washburn at washburn.ben@epa.gov directly if you want a more direct response from EPA.

I'm sorry that we don't have a more definite answer for you at this time. If you have any other concerns, please don't hesitate to raise them.

Thank you.
Terrie

Terrie Boguski
Senior Technical Analyst
Skeo Solutions

913-780-3328 (office)
913-568-7550 (cell)
www.skeo.com
tboguski@skeo.com
tboguski@sbcglobal.net

From: Jill Billus [<mailto:jbillus@skeo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 9:30 PM
To: Terrie Boguski
Subject: Re: Westlake Landfill question

Hi Terrie,
PDF page 7 of the attached paper talks a little about blasting and notes that it is usually very controlled; however, page 9 talks about some problems as well....like blasting-induced fracturing or aperture widening playing a role in initiating flooding events. Any effects from blasting would depend on how far away the site is and the magnitude of the blasting.

Jill

Begin forwarded message:

Terrie,
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